

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9497

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3308

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REF IN PARA 3 FIRST LINE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CI CU UNSC

SUBJ: CHILE IN UN

REF: USUN 3282

1. DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL FAILURE OF CUBAN-LED ASSAULT ON CHILEAN REGIME SEPT 17-18, WE FULLY EXPECT ISSUE TO BE WITH US IN PERIOD AHEAD. YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED IN SC ARE MOTIVATED TO REVIVING SUBJECT IN SC IF SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY ARISES AND THERE WILL DOUBTLESS BE SOME ORATORY ON SUBJECT IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOTH DURING GENERAL DEBATE AND LATER, PARTICULARLY IN ANNUAL 3RD COMITE DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. CHILEAN REGIME IS MORE INTERESTING TARGET FOR LEFT THAN GENERAL RUN OF RIGHTIST MILITARY JUNTAS. UN COMMUNITY IS AWARE OF LONG DEMOCRATIC TRADITION IN CHILE. ALLENDE WAS NOT ONLY HERO TO HARD-CORE SOCIALIST STATES. HE MADE VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION WHEN HE SPOKE TO 27TH GA. TO MANY AFRICANS AND ASIANS, INCLUDING MODERATES, ALLENDE WAS "CIVILIZED" DEMOCRATIC MARXIST, BROUGHT TO POWER CONSTITUTIONALLY AND A MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE FIGURE TO IDENTIFY WITH THAN ROUGH-SHOD CUBANS AND EAST EUROPEANS.

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3. WITH REFERENCE TO SANTIAGO'S 4307 REPORTING THAT ORLANDO SAENZ MIGHT COME TO 28TH UNGA, WE WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT CHILEANS DECIDE TO SEND CIVILIAN PERSONALITY SUCH AS DEPOUTY MINISTER BERNSTEIN AS HEAD OF ANY SPECIAL

DELEGATION TO UN, UNIFORMED FOREIGN MINISTERS DO NOT AS SUCH MAKE PARTICULARLY GOOD IMPRESSION IN UN EVEN WHEN REGIME THEY REPRESENT IS "PROGRESSIVE". IN UN CONTEXT, AND PERHAPS MORE GENERALLY, IMAGE OFTEN IS REALITY. WE NOTED IN REFTEL THAT BAZAN, AS "FACE" OF CHILEAN REGIME IN SC DEBATE, WAS VERY SATISFACTORY.

4. WE DO NOT PRESUME TO COMPETENCE IN JUDGING COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN WORKING OUT US TIMING OR STRATEGY FOR RECOGNIZING OR OTHERWISE ACCOMMODATING TO NEW REIME IN CHILE. IT IS PERHAPS APPROPRIATE FOR US TO NOTE THAT UN, PARTICULARLY DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS, IS GROUND ON WHICH MUCH OF INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION OF NEW REGIME IS TAKING PLACE. IF WE RECOGNIZE NEW REGIMEDURING THIS PERIOD, AND PARTICULARLY IF WE ACT AHEAD OF EUROPEANS, WE WILL HEIGHTEN DEGREE TO WHICH WE SHARE REGIME'S VULNERABILITY. WHEN WE DO RECOGNIZE IT, OUR PROBLEM IN UN WILL BE MINIMIZED IF WE DO SO FOR "GOVERNMENT" REASONS, WITHOUT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS.
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